



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Alabama

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**DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO TEN MONTHS**  
**FOR MAIL THEFT**

MOBILE, AL – November 10, 2008. Senior U.S. District Court Judge Charles Butler, Jr. sentenced Robert Bechtol to ten months imprisonment for mail theft. Bechtol, a postal employee, stole over 700 pieces of mail from May to December 2007, including cash, prescription medication and gift cards contained therein.

Bechtol pleaded guilty in July to delay of the mail by a postal employee. Over 250 identifiable victims were involved, with reported losses of over \$5,000.00. During the pertinent time period, Bechtol opened and rifled through mail addressed to homes and businesses on his routes in Bayside Station and Prichard. He also took mail placed in a collection box at the Tillman's Corner post office. Bechtol would burn the mail in his backyard and then use the stolen cash and gift cards to purchase items for himself.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspectors Office, and prosecuted by Adam W. Overstreet of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Alabama.